component of its projects. No specific proposal for foreign equity participation is under consideration at present.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Development of Chawandra Lime Stone Project

3494. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM : Will the Ministery of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the N.M.D.C. Limited has undertaken the development of Chawandia Lime Stone Project without considering its economic viability ;

(b) whether no economic or marketing tie-up has been put through ;

(c) whether lot of mining equipment is being procured by the management; and

(d) if so, the. details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) The National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has undertaken the development of Chawandia Limestone Project in the- State of Rajasthan so as to meet the requirement of limestone for the domestic steel industry and other users. The economic viability, marketing & other related aspects have been duly considered by the company before taking up the project.

(c) and (d) Mining is to be done by leased/hired mining equipment while the process plant is being procured by NMDC at a cost of Rs. 140.75 lakhs.

Pending Payment of Wages in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

3495. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that resource personnel working in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant represented for their absorption in the employment of the plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that payment of their wages is pending;

(c) if so, since haw long these are pending ;

(d) what are the reasons therefor ;

(e) what is the total amount payable on this count ; and

(f) what action has been taken to settle the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF, THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir. These, persons were not in the employment of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant but were engaged by Shramik Vidyapeeth. Visakhapatnam Steel Plant did not require their services on regular basis. The resource persons did not have the qualifications as per the requirements' of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant.

(b) to (f) Requirement of training having almost been completed towards mid 1992, the Shramik Vidyapeeth was informed by VSP on 6-6-1992 that VSP would not require the services of the resource persons beyond 17th July, 1992. On a request of the Director, Shramik Vidyapeeth, Visakhapatnam Steel Plant agreed to ratain the resource persons for a further period of three months. However, when the Shramik Vidyapeeth was asked to *rai*Se necessary bills towards the services of the resource persons, the Director, Shramik Vidyapeeth informed VSP in September, 1992 that the resource persons were not engaged by the Shramik Vidyapeeth beyond 17th July, 1992. Accordingly, the resource persons were verbally informed of the decision of the Shramik Vidyapeeth and their engagement was discontinued after 16th, September, 1992. VSP remitted 'the required amount towards payment for the service rendered by .resource, persons.Jn Visakhapatnam Steel Plant for the period from 18th July, 1992 to 16th September, 1992 to the Shramik Vidyapeeth who however, refused to accept the payment, i Non-acceptance of the payment from Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel

Plant) by the Shramik Vidyapeeth has thus resulted in non-payment to the resource persons. The total amount pending for disbursement to the resource persons is Rs. 31,541.37. Since, Shramik Vidyapeeth did not accept the payment for the services of the resource persons for the period from 18th July, 1992 to 16th September, 1992. VSP as a special case requested the resource persons to come to its office and accept the payment on 6-10-1993 and 17-11-1993. A few of them came but refused to accept the payment. However, steps have been initiated by VSP to send the amount to them by Cheque through Registered post on behalf of Shramik Vidyapeeth.

Import and Export of Steel

3496. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of steel imported and exported till date;

(b) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to import more steel during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether Government have any scheme or any export target for steel till the end of this century particularly during the current financial year;

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what would be the comparative ratio of export and import of steel during the next financial year, 1994-95 and for the last three years stating its overall impact on domestic market of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) The total quantity of steel imported and exported in the last two years and the current year is as under :

	Qty. in million tonnes		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
IMPORTS	1.01	1.11	0.94 (Upto Dec. 93)
EXPORTS*	0.39	0.89	1.28 (Upto Jan. 94)

* By main producers only.

(b) The current import export policy freely allows import of all categories of steel. Import of steel depends upon speci-fic requirements of the importers in order to supplement indigenous availability both in terms of quantity and quality. Imports during the current year, 1993-94, have not shown an increasing trend as compared to the prvious year.

(c) and (d) On the basis of present indications it is expected that export of steel from India may increase to about 6 million tonnes by the year 2001-02. During the current year, the export of iron & steel is expected to be about 2.5 million tonnes.

(e) The comparative ratio of export and import of steel in the last three years was as under :

1990-91	1991-92	199-93
1 : 4.1	1 : 2.6	1 : 1.2